1 <u>CLAIMS</u>

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- A holster for attaching to an leg of a user and holding a hammer, wherein the hammer has a handle and a head, and wherein the head of the hammer extends transversely from the handle of the hammer so as to form a general T-shape, said holster comprising:
- 7 a) an attaching portion; and
- 8 b) a holding portion;
- 9 wherein said attaching portion is for replaceably attaching to the 10 leg of the user;
- wherein said holding portion extends from said attaching portion;
- 12 and
- wherein said holding portion is for replaceably holding the hammer
  in a position which provides complete freedom of movement of hands
- in a position which provides complete freedom of movement of hands and feet of the user and which permits the user to remove the hammer
- with the same hand employed to use the hammer.
- The holster as defined in claim 1, wherein said attaching portion comprises a pair of extension members.
- The holster as defined in claim 2, wherein said pair of extension members of said attaching portion are mirror images of each other;
- 21 wherein said pair of extension members of said attaching portion are
- 22 vertically-oriented;
- 23 wherein said pair of extension members of said attaching portion are
- 24 spaced-apart from each other;
- wherein said pair of extension members of said attaching portion lie
- 26 in the same plane;
- wherein each extension member of said pair of extension members of
- 28 said attaching portion is rod-like;

7		wherein each extension member of said ball of extension members of
2		said attaching portion is slender; and
3		wherein each extension member of said pair of extension members of
4		said attaching portion is elongated.
5	4.	The holster as defined in claim 2, wherein each extension member of
6		said pair of extension members of said attaching portion has a
7		lowermost end;
8		wherein each extension member of said pair of extension members of
9		said attaching portion has an uppermost end;
10		wherein each extension member of said pair of extension members of
11		said attaching portion has an upper portion;
12		wherein each extension member of said pair of extension members of
13		said attaching portion has an intermediate portion; and
14		wherein each extension member of said pair of extension members of
15		said attaching portion has a lower portion.
16	5.	The holster as defined in claim 4, wherein said upper portion of
١7		each extension member of said pair of extension members of said
18	•	attaching portion depends from said uppermost end of an associated
19		extension member of said pair of extension members of said attaching
20		portion to a first transition point.
21	6.	The holster as defined in claim 4, wherein said upper portion of
22		each extension member of said pair of extension members of said
23		attaching portion is straight; and
24		wherein said upper portion of each extension member of said pair of
25		extension members of said attaching portion is parallel to the
96		other

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The holster as defined in claim 5, wherein said intermediate portion

of each extension member of said pair of extension members of said

- attaching portion depends sidewardly outwardly from said first transition point of said upper portion of an associated extension member of said pair of extension members of said attaching portion to a second transition point.
- 5 8. The holster as defined in claim 4, wherein said intermediate portion 6 of each extension member of said pair of extension members of said 7 attaching portion is continuous with said upper portion of an associated extension member of said pair of extension members of 8 9 said attaching portion so as to allow said intermediate portion of 10 each extension member of said pair of extension members of said 11 attaching portion to be one-piece with said upper portion of said 12 associated extension member of said pair of extension members of 13 said attaching portion.
- 14 9. The holster as defined in claim 4, wherein said intermediate portion 15 of each extension member of said pair of extension members of said 16 attaching portion is straight.
- 17 10. The holster as defined in claim 7, wherein said lower portion of
  18 each extension member of said pair of extension members of said
  19 attaching portion depends from said second transition point of said
  20 intermediate portion of an associated extension member of said pair
  21 of extension members of said attaching portion to said lowermost end
  22 of said associated extension member of said pair of extension
  23 members of said attaching portion.
- 24 11. The holster as defined in claim 7, wherein said lower portion of 25 each extension member of said pair of extension members of said 26 attaching portion is continuous with said intermediate portion of 27 an associated extension member of said pair of extension members of 28 said attaching portion so as to allow said lower portion of each

1	extension member of said pair of extension members of said attaching
2	portion to be one-piece with said intermediate portion of said
3	associated extension member of said pair of extension members of
4	said attaching portion.

- 5 12. The holster as defined in claim 4, wherein said lower portion of 6 each said member of said pair of said members of said attaching 7 portion is straight;
- wherein said lower portion of each extension member of said pair of extension members of said attaching portion is parallel to the other;
- wherein said lower portion of each extension member of said pair of extension members of said attaching portion is outboard of said upper portion of an associated extension member of said pair of extension members of said attaching portion; and
- wherein said lower portion of each extension member of said pair of extension members of said attaching portion is parallel to said upper portion of said associated extension member of said pair of extension members of said attaching portion.
- 19 13. The holster as defined in claim 4, wherein each extension member of said pair of extension members of said attaching portion has an upper loop; and
- wherein each extension member of said pair of extension members of said attaching portion has a lower loop.
- 24 14. The holster as defined in claim 13, wherein said upper loop of each extension member of said pair of extension members of said attaching portion is disposed at said uppermost end of an associated extension member of said pair of extension members of said attaching portion; wherein said upper loop of each extension member of said pair of extension members of said attaching portion extends forwardly from

1 said uppermost end of said associated extension member of said pair 2 of extension members of said attaching portion, away from the leg 3 of the user for comfort; wherein said upper loop of each extension member of said pair of 4 5 extension members of said attaching portion is for receiving an 6 upper strap; and 7 wherein the upper strap is for strapping around the leg of the user. 8 15. The holster as defined in claim 13, wherein said upper loop of each 9 extension member of said pair of extension members of said attaching 10 portion is identical to the other; 11 wherein said upper loop of each extension member of said pair of 12 extension members of said attaching portion is vertically-oriented; 13 wherein said upper loop of each extension member of said pair of 14 extension members of said attaching portion is spaced-apart from the 15 other: 16 wherein said upper loop of each extension member of said pair of extension members of said attaching portion is parallel to the 17 18 other; and 19 wherein said upper loop of each extension member of said pair of 20 extension members of said attaching portion is aligned with the 21 other. 22 16. The holster as defined in claim 13, wherein said upper loop of each 23 extension member of said pair of extension members of said attaching 24 portion is formed by an upper member; and 25 wherein said upper member of said upper loop of each extension

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of said pair of extension members of said attaching portion.

member of said pair of extension members of said attaching portion

is attached to said uppermost end of an associated extension member

- The holster as defined in claim 16, wherein said upper extension 1 17. 2 member of said upper loop of each extension member of said pair of 3 extension members of said attaching portion is welded to said 4 uppermost end of an associated extension member of said pair of 5 extension members of said attaching portion.
- The holster as defined in claim 16, wherein said upper member of 6 18. 7 said upper loop of each extension member of said pair of extension 8 members of said attaching portion is arcuate-shaped; 9 wherein said upper member of said upper loop of each extension 10 member of said pair of extension members of said attaching portion
- is vertically-oriented; 12 wherein said upper member of said upper loop of each extension member of said pair of extension members of said attaching portion 13 14 is spaced-apart from the other; and
- 15 wherein said upper member of said upper loop of each extension 16 member of said pair of extension members of said attaching portion 17 is parallel to the other.
- 18 19. The holster as defined in claim 13, wherein said lower loop of each 19 extension member of said pair of extension members of said attaching 20 portion is disposed at said lowermost end of an associated extension 21 member of said pair of extension members of said attaching portion; 22 wherein said lower loop of each extension member of said pair of 23 extension members of said attaching portion extends rearwardly from 24 said lowermost end of said associated extension member of said pair 25 of extension members of said attaching portion, towards the leg of 26 the user 14 for spacing to compensate for the depending taper of the 27 leg of the user;

wherein said lower loop of each extension member of said pair of members of said attaching portion is for receiving a lower strap; and

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29 30 wherein the lower strap is for strapping around the leg of the user.

- 2 20. The holster as defined in claim 13, wherein said lower loop of each 3 extension member of said pair of extension members of said attaching 4 portion is identical to the other; 5 wherein said lower loop of each extension member of said pair of 6 extension members of said attaching portion is vertically-oriented; 7 wherein said lower loop of each extension member of said pair of extension members of said attaching portion is spaced-apart from the 8 9 other; wherein said lower loop of each extension member of said pair of 10 11 extension members of said attaching portion is parallel to the 12 other: and 13 wherein said lower loop of each extension member of said pair of 14 extension members of said attaching portion is aligned with the
- The holster as defined in claim 13, wherein said lower loop of each extension member of said pair of extension members of said attaching portion is formed by a lower member; and wherein said lower member is attached to said lowermost end of an associated extension member of said pair of extension members of said attaching portion.
- 22. The holster as defined in claim 21, wherein said lower member of said lower loop of each extension member of said pair of extension members of said attaching portion is welded to said lowermost end of an associated extension member of said pair of extension members of said attaching portion.

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other.

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1 23. The holster as defined in claim 21, wherein said lower loop of each 2 extension member of said pair of extension members of said attaching 3 portion is generally square-shaped; wherein said lower member of said lower loop of each extension 4 5 member of said pair of extension members of said attaching portion 6 is straight; wherein said lower member of said lower loop of each extension 7 member of said pair of extension members of said attaching portion 8 9 is vertically-oriented; 10 wherein said lower member of said lower loop of each extension 11 member of said pair of extension members of said attaching portion 12 is spaced-apart from the other; and 13 wherein said lower member of said lower loop of each extension 14 member of said pair of extension members of said attaching portion 15 is parallel to the other. 24. The holster as defined in claim 13, wherein said lower loop of each extension member of said pair of extension members of said attaching

- 16 17 18 portion is wider than said loop of an associated extension member 19 of said pair of extension members of said attaching portion.
- 20 25. The holster as defined in claim 13, wherein said attaching portion 21 comprises a cross member; and 22 wherein said cross member of said attaching portion extends from 23 said lower loop of one extension member of said pair of extension 24 members of said attaching portion to said lower loop of the other 25 extension member of said pair of extension members of said attaching 26 portion.
- 27 26. The holster as defined in claim 25, wherein said cross member of 28 said attaching portion is rod-like;

29 wherein said cross member of said attaching portion is slender;

1		wherein said cross member of said attaching portion is elongated;
2		and
3		wherein said cross member of said attaching portion arcs for
4		conforming to the leg of the user.
5	27.	The holster as defined in claim 4, wherein said holding portion
6		comprises a pair of segment members; and
7		wherein said pair of segment members of said holding portion are for
8		holding the head of the hammer.
9	28.	The holster as defined in claim 27, wherein said pair of segment
10	•	members of said holding portion are mirror images of each other;
11		wherein said pair of segment members of said holding portion are
12		vertically-oriented;
13		wherein said pair of segment members of said holding portion are
14		spaced-apart from each other;
15		wherein each segment member of said pair of segment members of said
16		holding portion is rod-like;
17		wherein each segment member of said pair of segment members of said
18		holding portion is slender; and
19		wherein each segment member of said pair of segment members of said
20		holding portion is elongated.
21	29.	The holster as defined in claim 27, wherein each segment member of
22		said pair of segment members of said holding portion has a
23		forwardmost end;
24		wherein each segment member of said pair of segment members of said
25		holding portion has a rear portion;
26		wherein each segment member of said pair of segment members of said
27		holding portion has a lower portion; and
28		wherein each segment member of said pair of segment members of said
<b>2</b> 9		holding portion has a forward portion.

- The holster as defined in claim 29, wherein said rear portion of each segment member of said pair of segment members of said holding portion depends forwardly from said lowermost end of an associated extension member of said pair of extension members of said attaching portion to a first transition point.
- The holster as defined in claim 29, wherein said rear portion of
  each segment member of said pair of segment members of said holding
  portion is straight; and
  wherein said rear portion of each segment member of said pair of
  segment members of said holding portion is parallel to the other.
- 11 32. The holster as defined in claim 30, wherein said lower portion of
  12 each segment member of said pair of segment members of said holding
  13 portion extends forwardly, upwardly, and inwardly from said first
  14 transition point of said rear portion of an associated segment
  15 member of said pair of segment members of said holding portion to
  16 a second transition point.
- 17 33. The holster as defined in claim 29, wherein said lower portion of 18 each segment member of said pair of segment members of said holding 19 portion is continuous with said rear portion of an associated 20 segment member of said pair of segment members of said holding 21 portion so as to allow said lower portion of each segment member of 22 said pair of segment members of said holding portion to be one-piece 23 with said rear portion of said associated segment member of said 24 pair of segment members of said holding portion.
- 25 34. The holster as defined in claim 29, wherein said lower portion of 26 each segment member of said pair of segment members of said holding 27 portion is straight; and

- wherein said lower portion of each segment member of said pair of segment members of said holding portion converges towards the other.
- 35. The holster as defined in claim 32, wherein said forward portion of each segment member of said pair of segment members of said holding portion extends upwardly and inwardly from said second transition point of said lower portion of an associated segment member of said pair of segment members of said holding portion to said forwardmost end of said associated segment member of said pair of segment members of said holding portion.
- 10 36. The holster as defined in claim 29, wherein said forward portion of 11 each segment member of said pair of segment members of said holding portion is continuous with said lower portion of an associated 12 13 segment member of said pair of segment members of said holding 14 portion so as to allow said forward portion of each segment member 15 of said pair of segment members of said holding portion to be one-16 piece with said lower portion of said associated segment member of 17 said pair of segment members of said holding portion.
- 18 37. The holster as defined in claim 29, wherein said forward portion of 19 each segment member of said pair of segment members of said holding 20 portion is straight;
  - wherein said forward portion of each segment member of said pair of segment members of said holding portion converges towards the other; wherein said forward portion of each segment member of said pair of segment members of said holding portion is inboard of said rear portion of an associated segment member of said pair of segment members of said holding portion; and
- wherein said forward portion of each segment member of said pair of segment members of said holding portion lies in a general parallel

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- plane to said rear portion of an associated segment member of said pair of segment members of said holding portion.
- 3 38. The holster as defined in claim 29, wherein said holding portion comprises a connecting member;
- wherein said connecting member of said holding portion extends from said forwardmost end of one segment member of said pair of segment members of said holding portion to said forwardmost end of the other segment member of said pair of segment members of said holding portion; and
- wherein said connecting member of said holding portion extends forwardly from said forwardmost end of each segment member of said pair of segment members of said holding portion.
- 13 39. The holster as defined in claim 38, wherein said connecting member of said holding portion is continuous with said forward portion of each segment member of said pair of segment members of said holding portion so as to allow said connecting member of said holding portion to be one-piece with said forward portion of an associated segment member of said pair of segment members of said holding portion.
- 20 40. The holster as defined in claim 38, wherein said connecting member of said holding portion is inverted U-shaped.
- The holster as defined in claim 38, wherein the head of the hammer has a claw;
- wherein the head of the hammer has a bell/poll;
- wherein said pair of segment members of said holding portion and said connecting member of said holding portion form a cradle; and wherein said cradle of said holding portion is for replaceably cradling the head of the hammer therein, with the handle of the

1 hammer extending upwardly therefrom, with the claw of the hammer 2 extending replaceably through one segment member of said pair of 3 segment members of said holding portion, and with the bell/poll of the hammer extending replaceably through the other segment member 4 5 of said pair of segment members of said holding portion.

- 6 42. The holster as defined in claim 41, wherein said holding portion 7 comprises a cross member; and wherein said cross member of said holding portion extends 8 9 horizontally from said forwardmost end of one segment member of said
- pair of members of said holding portion to said forwardmost end of 10 the other segment member of said pair of segment members of said 11
- 12 holding portion.
- 13 43. The holster as defined in claim 42, wherein the head of the hammer 14 has a cheek;
- 15 wherein said cross member of said holding portion is flat;
- 16 wherein said cross member of said holding portion is elongated; and wherein said cross member of said holding portion is for abutting 17 against the cheek of the head of the hammer and urging the head of 18 19 the hammer against said rear portion of each segment member of said 20 pair of segment members of said holding portion so as to replaceably 21 maintain the head of the hammer in said cradle of said holding
- 22 portion.
- 23 44. The holster as defined in claim 13, wherein said holding member 24 comprises a catch:
- 25 wherein said catch of said holding member is generally U-shaped;
- 26 wherein said catch of said holding member extends forwardly from
- 27 said upper portion of each extension member of said pair of 28

extension members of said attaching portion;

1	wherein said catch of said holding member extends just below said
2	upper loop of each extension member of said pair of extension
3	members of said attaching portion; and
4	wherein said catch of said holding member is for replaceably
5	canturing the handle of the hammer therein